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REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that Claim 35 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended such claim in this manner.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-6, 10-17 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiegel (U.S. Patent No.: 6,484,261), in view of Bal et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,691,168), and further in view of Abraham et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,983,270). Moreover, the Examiner has rejected Claims 24-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiegel (U.S. Patent No.: 6,484,261), in view of Abraham et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,983,270). These rejections are deemed overcome in view of the incorporation of the allowable subject matter of Claim 35, at least in part, into each of the remaining independent claims.

An allowance is respectfully requested.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. For payment of the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. NAI1P007_00.045.01).

Respectfully submitted,
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